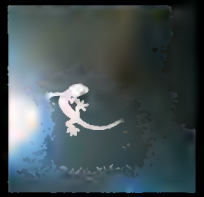
Katydid
Panarama Suzu
Sidney silver_deeds
Pollux wall flower
xengie Flump
mayairy-
active
happybobo321
Cream Puffs eunhYe
Freshy funnypages
Galletita gorelab ink
keppim p00k Lynite
Leen-chan Micho
Luppy
MegKF
terracannon876
riseabove77 JLindgren
Medea Saga pryxir
sekushibijin84
Sophendo | bot
Lighter
admins
barbapapa
flying robots
bukuwawa petr
mangauniverse
Vanderguard
jojo da crow
Friends
Forever
vio55555
Digitalr Death
kalekala cracken
sioc shadowfoxx
cjd fooJin
Levin
super
active
chiaki
dahippo
toshirodragon
narwhaltortellini
icassop Kavic
Lui
retired
Ymgael Yoyo
Yehiko Haisa
Kimheami
Knights4
Kakaro-chain
Kyuuei Lia
Sekiehun chaktijoeleann
silverbell1979
Michiler
Mary Gleason
MaxMaxMax Oyling
Remy mymdrx Nomad_Saul
Moyday Mikuru Moonies Tiger
SakuraMilan SerapHimWed Tys
LevanterFewerXII Magnum SkriderX
Sukeyukkey Sunny Shikure Spud
Skyarrul830 Tragicdragdem
Usagiina Vanessa Twinpop
Tetachen Vivisumeko
vis-a-vis



Here's the second volume. It was always my dream to have a volume number attached to the title, so I've been really nervous. Volume! Two! Yay!

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Tokage

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Tokage

Table of Contents

Chapter 7	5
Chapter 8	29
Chapter 9	43
Chapter 10	65
Chapter 11	93
Chapter 12	127
Chapter 13	159

Tokage

CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS

TOKAGE

A SPIRIT OF THE DEAD, CURSED WITH IMMORTALITY AFTER HE ATE A GOD EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS AGO. AFTER TRANSMIGRATING TO YUUKA'S CORPSE, HE IS SEARCHING FOR THE REINCARNATION OF A SPELL MASTER TO UNDO THE CURSE.

HEAD MONK

HE IS SHINOBU'S GRANDFATHER AND THE HEAD OF THE INN. EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE TOKAGE AND THE LEGEND BEHIND IT, HE SHELTERS IT.

SHINOBU

A BOY WHO LIVES WITH HIS GRANDFATHER, THE HEAD PRIEST, AND DEARLY MISSES YUUKA, WHO WAS LIKE AN OLDER SISTER TO HIM AND HAD DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. BECAUSE HE IS THE LAST PERSON YUUKA BORE REGRETS TOWARD, HE IS THE TOUCHSTONE THAT GRANTS SPIRITUAL POWER FOR TOKAGE.

HARUKI & CHITOSE

THE FATHER IS A DOCTOR, AND THE YOUNG DAUGHTER HAS A STRONG SIXTH SENSE OF THE SPIRITUAL WORLD. IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS DAUGHTER FROM AN INCURABLE DISEASE, THE FATHER DESIRES TO OBTAIN TOKAGE'S IMMORTAL BODY.

SHUNKEI

THE HEAD PRIEST'S PUPIL. IN ORDER TO MONITOR TOKAGE AND TO PROTECT SHINOBU, HE WAS CALLED BACK FROM HIS TRAINING.

SAKAKI

A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL FROM THE SUPERNATURAL DISASTER COUNTERMEASURES (SDC) OFFICE, WHICH IS A PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT. HER GOAL IS TO CAPTURE TOKAGE, WHO UPSETS THE COUNTRY'S SPIRITUAL BALANCE.

SUMMARY

TOKAGE. A SOUL THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST IN THIS WORLD. A SPIRIT OF THE DEAD, CURSED WITH IMMORTALITY.

YUUKA DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. SHINOBU, WHO HAD GONE TO HER FUNERAL DESPITE REFUSING TO ACCEPT HER DEATH, WITNESSED YUUKA'S CORPSE MOVING. WHAT RESIDED IN THE BODY WAS THE IMMORTAL SPIRIT, TOKAGE. WHILE CONFUSED BY TOKAGE'S PRESENCE, SHINOBU BECAME THE TOUCHSTONE THAT WOULD GRANT SPIRITUAL POWER TO TOKAGE. TOKAGE'S MYSTERIOUS CHARM AND HIS DARK, HIDDEN PAST GRADUALLY ENTRANCED SHINOBU. HOWEVER, CONTRARY TO TOKAGE'S TROUBLES, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE HUNTING FOR THIS IMMORTAL SPIRIT. SAKAKI, FOR ONE, CONSIDERS TOKAGE A "SUPERNATURAL DISASTER," WHEREAS HARUKI WISHES TO SAVE HIS DAUGHTER'S LIFE THROUGH THE USE OF TOKAGE'S IMMORTALITY. AND SHINOBU WILL ALSO BE DRAWN INTO THESE ENCROACHING THREATS...

OW...
SHINOBU?
HEY
WHY ARE YOU ...?
TOKAGE
GET BACK IN THE HOUSE...
HUH?
CHAPTER SEVEN

An attack?
No, that's not even possible. Shinobu has nothing to do with anything at all.
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M NOT FEELING ANYTHING WRONG
NOD
SORRY LITTLE GIRL, YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT.
I haven't felt that spiritual disturbance. Shinobu's been feeling since this morning.
Why is Shinobu...?
As long as he's not the direct target for malicious intent he shouldn't be.
How could this happen...?

No...
I CAN'T...
THAT GIRL'S...!
...I'm not the one being targeted?!
Impossible! Why?!
WHAT'S WRONG SHINOBU?
〈scrEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE〉

(crackle crackle)
UWAH!
(spark)
HEY,
SHINOBU...
I didn't feel anything at all.
but when I touched Shinobu, I
(screeeeee)

Then,
the reason he's been acting weird since this morning was because...
YOU
MISTER, ARE YOU TOKAGE?

WHAT DID YOU ...?!
CHITOSE.
PAPA!
HEY THERE
SORRY FOR MY DAUGHTER S ACTIONS.
(crunch)
HA HA HA
ARE YOU HER FATHER?
MY WHAT A LOVELY DAUGHTER YOU HAVE
NICE TO MEET YOU
YOU THERE.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
YOU'RE BLATANTLY SHADY-LOOKING.
SNAP
EH UM...
HEY!
DON'T WORRY I'M A DOCTOR JUST GET INTO THAT CAR OVER THERE RIGHT AWA-
YOU FEELING BAD SOME-WHERE?
I'LL TAKE YOU TO A HOSPITAL TO GET A CHECK UP
I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT
THIS IS A PROBLEM AND THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME EITHER
WON'T YOU COME WITH ME?
I NEED THE TOKAGE'S POWERS

WHA-
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN
I'M NOT TOKAGE
PLEASE LEAVE
THERE'S NO POINT IN LYING
I KNOW HE'S HERE
Is he mixing me up with Shinobu?
<grab>
AH!
HEY!
DON'T TOUCH HIM!
<snatch>

!!
(grab)
LET GO!
...OW!
(ouch)

I DIDN'T THINK IT POSSIBLE...
HA HA HA...!
HA HA...

...YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE A PULSE.
...BUT...

SO YOU BLEED LIKE A NORMAL PERSON
I SEE
SHEW
I THOUGHT TOKAGE WAS THE BOY OVER THERE
BUT I GUESS IT'S YOU
<crunch>

YOU! TWO GET BACK!
HE'S NOT COMPLETELY THERE!
HEY!
IS YOUR HEAD SCREWED ON THE RIGHT WAY?
I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
JUDGING FROM LOOKS YOU'RE JUST A NORMAL HUMAN
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?
IS IT THAT GIRL?
AND SAID THAT THE "TOKAGE" WAS HERE
LOTS OF SHADOW PEOPLE CAME—
!
Can this girl see them, too?
HUMPH I SEE
YOU WANT THE POWER OF IMMORTALITY FOR THAT GIRL

WHOOSH
There're so many!
I tremble
tremble
tremble
Are they following her?
SO WHAT?
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
AND WITH MODERN MEDICINE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
IT'S AN INHERITABLE DISEASE.
HER MOTHER WAS THIS WAY, TOO.

PAPA.
IT'S OK, CHITOSE
I'LL GET THE MEDICINE SOON

IS THE POWER OF IMMORTALITY REFERRING TO YOUR BODY?
YOUR HEART?
YOUR BRAIN? YOUR GENES?
OR IS IT SOMETHING ELSE?

YOU'RE JUST SAYING WHATEVER YOU WANT.
I'M NOT LIVING BECAUSE I WANT TO BE HERE.

IT'S IN VAIN NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU INVESTIGATE IT
JUST GIVE UP AND LEAVE!
GOING ON ABOUT A MIRACLE DRUG FOR IMMORTALITY OR ABOUT RESEARCH FOR LONGEVITY
SERIOUSLY IT'S LIKE THERE'S AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF GUYS LIKE YOU
I DON'T HAVE THAT POWER MYSELF
I'M OUT OF TIME ON MY END TOO
THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU TO MAKE IT USEFUL FOR OTHERS.
EVEN IF BY FORCE I'LL BE TAKING A SAMPLE FROM YOU

AT THIS POINT I WON'T EVEN REPORT YOU
TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER AND HURRY UP AND
HAS THAT WOUND FROM JUST NOW ALREADY HEALED?
IS THAT THE POWER OF TOKAGE?!
!!
HA HA, LOOKS LIKE I WASN'T WRONG
WHAT AN INTERESTING SAMPLE!
THAT'S ENOU-
!!
{grab}

(whumph)

TOKAGE!
UWAH ...
...AHHHH!
(splash)
AHHH ...!
SO YOU FEEL PAIN DESPITE BEING A CORPSE
OR WILL YOU REGENERATE LIKE YOUR NAME IMPLIES?
YOU BAS-TARD ...!
...

IF I RETURN IT WILL YOU STICK IT BACK ON?
WE'LL HAVE TO INVESTIGATE THAT
TOKAGE! YOUR HAND'S...
DON'T LOOK, SHINOBU!
GIVE IT BACK!
THAT'S MINE!
THAT'S JUST THE HAND OF A CORPSE!
I TOLD YOU EVEN IF YOU INVESTIGATE IT IT'S POINTLESS
WHO'S THE STRANGE ONE?
ARE YOU STRANGE IN THE HEAD?!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN FRONT OF A CHILD?!

IT'S ALREADY STRANGE
FOR A HUMAN WHO SHOULD BE DEAD TO BE ALIVE
WHY ARE YOU ALIVE?
HEY...
YOU...
(thud)
!
...THAT'S...
WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW.

HEY!
UGH!
STOP THIS!
...THERE S NO WAY A CORPSE SHOULD JUST GO ON LIVING HAPPILY
<slam>
WHEN THOSE WHO ARE ALIVE ARE ON THE VERGE OF DEATH!
SHINOBU! TAKE THAT KID AND GET OUT OF HERE!
PAPA!
AH!
<crackle>

NO!
(slither)
(whoosh)

{whoosh}
No!
{whoosh}
{slither}
WHAT IS THIS ...?
HE'S...
{slither slither}
It wasn't this girl.
That shadow was...
STOP!
PAPA'LL DIE!

STOP!
DON'T TAKE PAPA AWAY!
SLITHER
HAH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS!
SLITHER
CHITOSE?

Chapter Eight

What I truly wanted wasn't eternal life.
TOKAGE?
YOU MEAN A LIZARD?
NO. TOKAGE IS JUST ITS NAME.
WHAT ABOUT LIZARDS?
THEY SAY IT'S AN IMMORTAL HUMAN.
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO MET IT IN THE PAST.
SHE SAID THAT NO MATTER WHAT YOU DID, IT WOULDN'T DIE
SHE ALSO SAID THAT IT'S BEEN ALIVE SINCE LONG, LONG AGO.
HA HA. SO IT'S AN URBAN LEGEND. THAT'S QUITE SOMETHING.

IF ONLY SUCH A THING WERE TRUE
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'D HAVE TO EAT ITS FLESH OR DRINK A BROTH BROILED FROM IT
BUT IT WOULD CURE MY GRANDSON'S DISEASE, TOO.
GRAMMY?
AH, YES, YES.
DOCTOR THANK YOU VERY MUCH
NO PROBLEM TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES
IT'S CALLED TOKAGE FOR A REASON. EVEN IF YOU CUT OFF ITS HAND OR FOOT, IT WON'T DIE.
IF YOU HAD AN IMMORTAL BODY LIKE
YOU MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO MAKE A PANACEA OUT OF IT
IT CAN'T BE...
TAP
Tokage...

BUT WHAT IF SUCH A THING WERE TRUE?
Chitose...
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
UN-SCIENTIFIC.
SUCH FOLKLORE IS COMMON
NO.
@LATTER
WHAT AM I THINKING?
DOCTOR.
WAS THIS WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR? YOUR DAUGHTER'S MEDICAL FILES...
OH. YES. SORRY THANK YOU.
YOU SEEM REALLY TIRED RECENTLY. HAVE YOU BEEN GET-TING ENOUGH SLEEP?
YOU LOOK PALE.

TOKAGE...
I'LL BE CAREFUL.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET AN EXAMINATION...
I KNOW ABOUT YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER BUT IT WON'T HELP ANYONE IF YOU ALSO COLLAPSE.
SERIOUSLY, WHAT AM I THINKING?
She's everything to me.
She's all I have left.
cough
cough
DADDY HAS TO WORK SO YOU CAN'T FOLLOW ME
LISTEN TO THE NURSE LADY, OK?
NO!
YOUR FEVER S NOT DROPPING

PAPA.
YOU CAN'T GO.
GRAB
CHITOSE
BE A GOOD GIRL
THE SHADOW PEOPLE ARE COMING! YOU CAN'T GO!
LOTS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO TOOK MAMA AWAY ARE COMING!
DON'T GO, PAPA!

THE PEOPLE WHO TOOK MAMA?
I couldn't say that it was just about my own selfish desires anymore
THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM IN THIS ROOM
shocked
PAPA, DON'T GO TO WORK!
Chitose...
How can I save you?
ARE YOU GOING TO STAY A LITTLE LONGER?
YES... JUST A BIT LONGER.
A DOCTOR WHO...
...CAN'T EVEN SAVE HIS OWN WIFE?

There's no wonder drug for a genetic disease.
I M SO PATHETIC
Her symptoms are stable at the moment.
But that doesn't mean her situation won't suddenly take a turn for the worse.
An incurable disease...
SORRY. DID I WAKE YOU?
PAPA...
Chitose.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I can't see...
TOKAGE'S NEARBY

...what you can see.
THE SHADOW PEOPLE SAID PAPA WAS LOOKING FOR TOKAGE
THEY TOLD ME WHERE IT IS
I CAN SEE THEM.
Chitose.
OK. HERE. I'LL PRESCRIBE TWO DRUGS FOR YOU.
PLEASE TAKE THEM AFTER BREAKFAST AND DINNER EVERYDAY.
...to wipe away...
I only want...
YES, DOCTOR. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
Bow
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. MRS. KUWASAWA...
WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME SOME MORE ABOUT THE TOKAGE MENTIONED LAST TIME?
...the death you see.

CHITOSE!
WHOA!
WAVER
WHAT DO YOU UNDER-STAND?!
WHAT YOU RE DOING IS COM-PLETELY ILLEGAL
DO YOU UNDER-STAND THAT?!
SHUT UP!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH WHAT I'M DOING?!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH...
TRYING TO SAVE MY ONLY DAUGHTER?!
...BUT SHE'S ONLY SIX! ARE YOU JUST GOING TO WATCH HER DIE?!
I DON'T KNOW JUST HOW "ALIVE" YOU ARE AS AN IMMORTAL
!!
A HUMAN CAN LOSE ABOUT 2000 ML OF BLOOD BEFORE BLEEDING BECOMES LETHAL.
BUT BECAUSE OF OXYGEN DEPRIVATION IN THE BRAIN ONE'LL LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS BEFORE DYING.
YOU'RE PRETTY ENERGETIC FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BLEEDING SO HEAVILY
IS THAT THE TOKAGE'S POWER?

HA HA, I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.
DO YOU HAVE CELLS THAT REGENERATE INFINITELY, TOO?
THEN, YOU REALLY WOULD BE IMMORTAL!
WHY DON'T YOU LET ME SEE YOUR HEART?
ARE YOU INSANE?
DO YOU PLAN TO PERFORM A DISSECTION RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR DAUGHTER?!
SHUT UP!
TOKAGE!
RUN!
(GRAB)

SLASH
AHH!
GAH!
GOUGE
GRIN
!!
CAUGHT YA.

KSHOW
slither
TOKAGE!!

(GRAB)
!!
(SQUEEZE)
UGH...
YOUR HAND...
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
THIS IS THE TOKAGE'S TAIL.
(SQUEEZE)

The dismembered arm...
regenerated?!
SQUEEZE
GIVE IT A BREAK
JUST SHUT UP ALREADY. YOU'VE BEEN BLABBERING ON AND ON ABOUT NONSENSE
CHAPTER NINE
SQUEEZE
YOU'RE AN IDIOT WHO CAN'T SEE WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM
AND NOW YOU'RE GLOSSING PAST EVERYTHING WITH YOUR SENTIMENTAL ARGUMENTS
JUST LOOK AROUND YOU. YOU'RE ALREADY...

COM-
PLETELY
COVERED
IN BLACK.
JERK
SQUEEZE
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
CAN'T
SEE IT?
AREN T
YOU
LUCKY
IT'S
ALREADY
COMPLETELY
COILED
AROUND
YOUR FEET.
NOT LEAVING
ANYTIME
SOON
SQUEEZE

STOP!
LET GO OF PAPA!
WHAT?
DID YOU THINK THAT KID DRAGGED YOU EVERY-WHERE
FOR HER OWN SAKE?
SQUEEZE
I'M SURE THAT GIRL SAW IT FROM THE START.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING
SQUEEZE
YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE THEM BUT THOSE "SHADOWS" SHE S BEEN TALKING ABOUT
ABOUT CHITOSE ?
HAVE BEEN FOLLOW-ING YOU NOT HER.
SQUEEZE
NO!

STOP!
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S SICKNESS OR OVERWORK.
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE ONE WHO'S ABOUT TO DIE IS YOU.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IT'S TRUE THAT I'M ALIVE THANKS TO THE POWER I GET FROM THE TOUCHSTONE..
IT WAS QUITE A PLAN COMING FROM THAT TINY HEAD OF HERS
BUT IT SEEMS SHE THOUGHT THIS WOULD KEEP YOU ALIVE AS WELL.
BRINGS TEARS TO MY EYES, BUT IT'S TOO BAD.
SQUEEZE
I CAN FULFILL NEITHER YOUR NOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S EXPECTATIONS.
CRICK
GUH...!
SQUEEZE
MONSTER!

MONSTER?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT
SQUEEZE
THIS IS THE POWER YOU GUYS WERE SEARCHING FOR
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IMMORTAL.
That is darkness,
an eternal prison.
IT'S NOT THAT YOU WON'T DIE
IT'S THAT YOU CAN'T DIE
SQUEEZE

WAH...
STOP CRYING...
BANG
UGH!
CRACK
YOU WANTED TO MAKE YOUR DAUGHTER INTO SUCH A MONSTER?
flinch
STOP CRYING!
WHOOSH
DON'T GO LOOKING FOR SOMETHING...
IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO BEAR THE BURDEN

WHY CAN'T YOU GIVE PAPA POWER
WHEN YOU CAN GIVE TOKAGE POWER?!
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...
SMACK
SAVE PAPA!
MAKE IT SO PAPA WON'T DIE!
I CAN'T SAVE PAPA...
...BUT YOU HAVE THE POWER, SO WHY CAN'T YOU SAVE PAPA?!
I...
I DON'T HAVE THAT...

WHY WON'T YOU WHEN YOU CAN SEE IT?!
FSSSH
PAPA!
SHOVE
AH!
ME?
HA
HA HA

NOT CHITOSE?
HA HA
HA...
clatter
FWIP
UGH...
GUH...
IDIOTS
IMMOR-TALITY? ETERNAL LIFE?
THERE'S NO WAY A CURE-ALL LIKE THAT EXISTS
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CON-VENIENT
THIS IS...
This is...
my punishment

WE'RE DONE HERE.
Wahhhh!
LEAVE.
BOTH YOU AND YOUR DAUGH-TER
YOU CAN STILL FORGET EVERY-THING
DIE WHILE YOU STILL HAVE A HAND TO GRASP.
ISN'T THAT JOYOUS ENOUGH?
CRUNCH

I DON'T GIVE A FLYING SHIT
WHETHER YOU OR YOUR DAUGHTER LIVE OR DIE.
JUST DON'T BECOME LIKE ME.
CRUNCH
CHI-TOSE
DON'T CRY, PAPA.
I'LL PROTECT YOU

"Chitose"
SINCE MAMA'S NOT HERE I...
I'M HERE
"Take care of Papa."
CHITOSE...
CHITOSE, I'M SORRY
PAPA
WILL BE FINE AS LONG AS YOU ARE AROUND
SHINOBU.

WHUMP
TOKAGE
"
AH...
DON'T DAZE OFF
DID YOU STRAIN YOUR BACK OR SOMETHING?
Y-YOU'RE BLEEDING SO MUCH!
SLIP
YOU IDIOT. LEARN SOMETHING I WON'T DIE FROM THIS.
DAMN IT
IF I COULD DIE FROM SOMETHING LIKE THIS I WOULDN'T BE GOING THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE

BY THE TIME THE POLICE COMES I'LL BE ALL HEALED
AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS ATTACKED
HEY, IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT IF WE DON'T REPORT THIS?
THOSE INJURIES ARE...
crunch
I DON'T THINK THOSE GUYS'LL BE TALKING ABOUT THIS TO OTHERS EITHER
It hurts so much. What a pain!
BUT...
ALTHOUGH, IT DOES HURT
I'M USED TO IT ALREADY..
SO IT'S FINE.
O-
OK.
SHUNKE!
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT A BATH?
Y-YOUR ARM...

Everything after that was scary.
YEAH.
IT GREW BACK.
"GREW BACK"?
I CAN REGENERATE LIKE THIS
KIND OF LIKE A LIZARD'S TAIL.
The blood staining my shirt, the right hand that seemed to be made from the glass worm...
SKIN DOESN'T REGENERATE AT THE SAME RATE SO IT'S GONNA LOOK A BIT UGLY
D-
DOES IT HURT?
Stupid.
IT HURTS LIKE HELL.
Even s...
IT HURTS, BUT I CAN'T DIE SO DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT
IF I WAIT A LITTLE LONGER, IT'LL ALL HEAL
Ow, ow, ow, ow, no, ow!

OK.
AW I MADE HIM CRY
HOW CUTE
I HURT YUUKA'S BODY AGAIN.
SHUT UP! DON'T TALK ANYMORE!
SORRY
DON'T APOLOGIZE TO ME...!
HA HA.
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S YOU
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS.
SO I'M SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU INTO ALL THESE SCARY EXPERIENCES.
All...

GRIP
GRIP
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO-
Don me
TWITCH
ALL I'M DOING IS WATCHING ALWAYS
"Why won't you save him?!"
RATTLE
THE TWO OF YOU SHOULD GET INSIDE FIRST.
I WILL CLEAN UP THE GARDEN.
OH! SORRY.
THAT'S RIGHT! I...
Then why does my chest hurt so much?!
Phew!
THE BLEEDING'S STOPPED.

THANKS
I DIDN'T...
AH.
SORRY.
We'll have to dry clean this uniform.
I GOT BLOOD ON YOU TOO.
...completely unrelated to all of this...
If I was...
then.
I wish you wouldn't grip my hand so tightly...

Ow ow
OK.
SORRY, BUT I'LL BE GOING FIRST (TO THE BATH)
Up up up
THAT'S NOT...
I wish you wouldn't.
laugh and smile like that.
...MY SIS YUUKA, ANYMORE, BUT...
SHINOBU?
HURRY UP AND GET IN
(ou)
I'M NOT HURT BUT
why does it hurt so much?

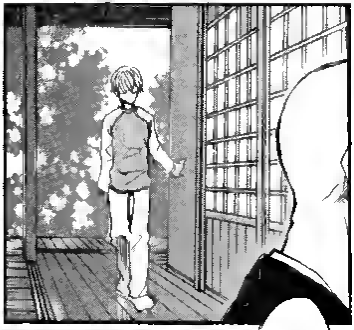
Tokage

CHAPTER TEN

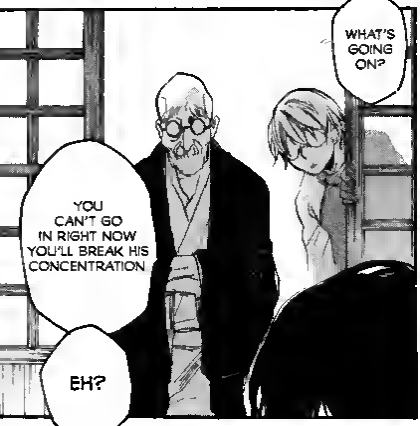
DON'T BE LATE!
YOU HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL FOR REAL THIS TIME!
GOOD MORNING, SHINOBU!
IT'S FINE YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME YOUR HAND!
JEEZ, WHAT'RE YOU SO EMBARRASSED ABOUT?
COME ON, LET'S GO!
AH!

〈SPLASH〉
〈DRIP〉
W-
WAH!
〈SIT UP〉
A-
AH!

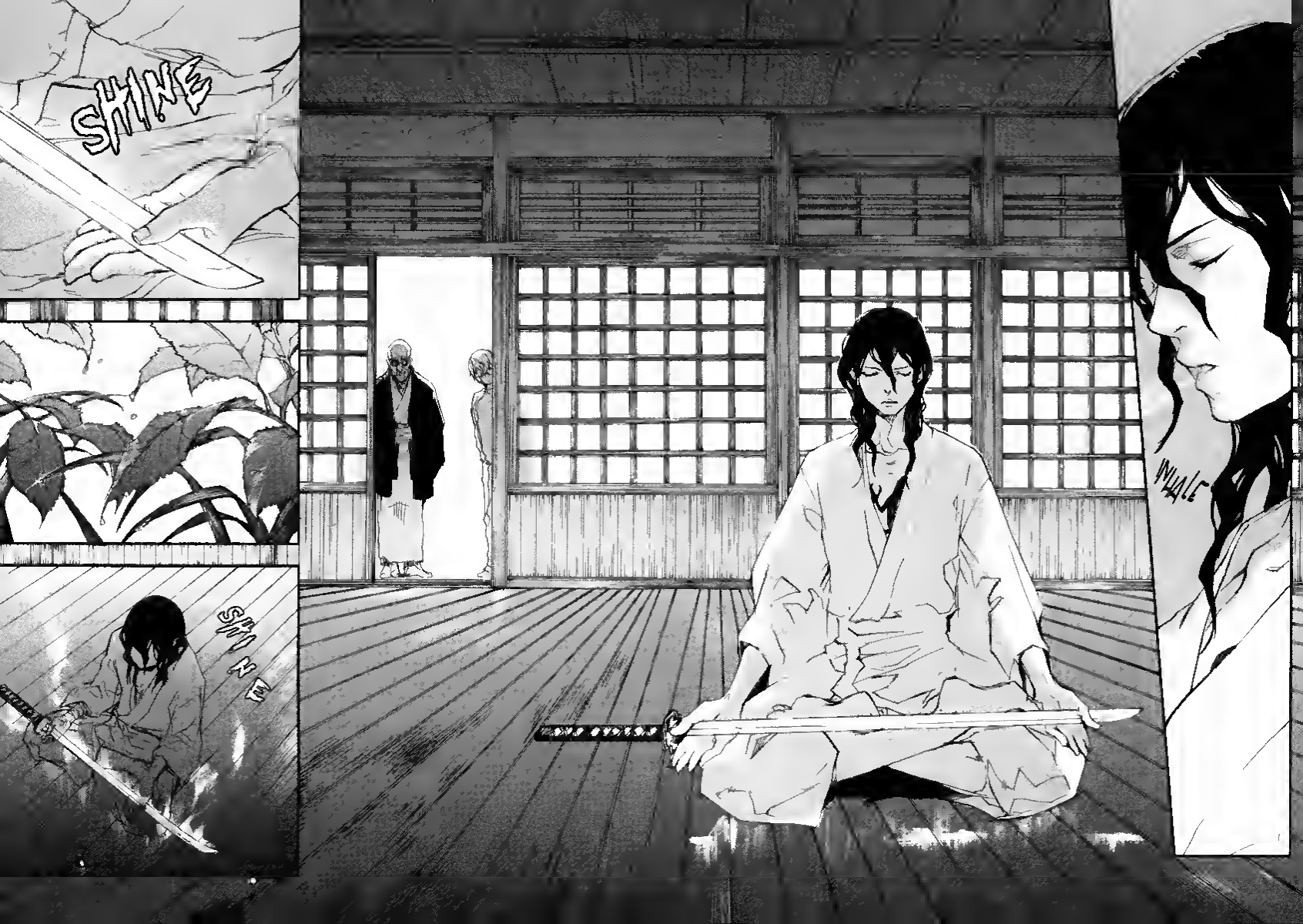
05:05
A DREAM
pant
pant
THE HAND
YUUKA, SIS



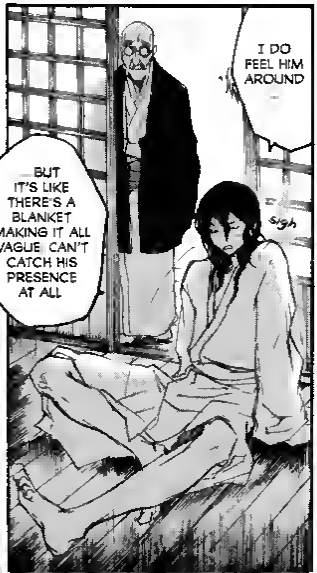
GRAND-PA?


WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU CAN'T GO IN RIGHT NOW YOU'LL BREAK HIS CONCENTRATION
EH?

That's right... The Tokage!
Tokage's hand was !


SHINE
SHINE
INHALE

SHI
NE


I DO FEEL HIM AROUND
sigh
...BUT IT'S LIKE THERE'S A BLANKET MAKING IT ALL VAGUE. CAN'T CATCH HIS PRESENCE AT ALL

!!
CRACKLE
URK...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S NO GOOD

GRAMPS
I'LL BE RETURNING THIS NOW
DID IT NOT HELP?
THE ARM...
NOPE USING SOMETHING LIKE THIS AS A MEDIUM HELPED ENOUGH
OH
GOOD MORNING SHINOBU SLEEP WELL?
!
GOOD MORN
ING...
ALL THE COMMOTION THAT HAPPENED RECENTLY
FELT LIKE A DREAM.

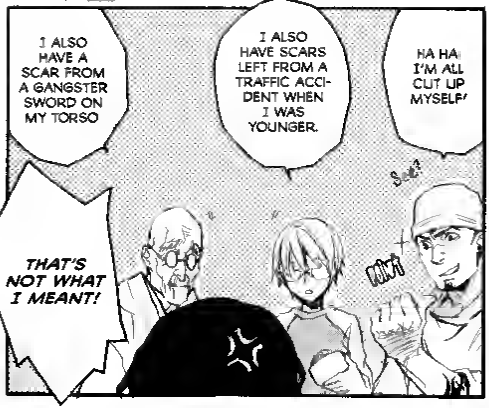
EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY A PART OF HER, IT WAS STILL YUUKA S BODY
GRAMPS GAVE IT A PROPER BURIAL AND ALL
Y-
YOUR HAND
OH
NOT THAT!
QUIT JOKING AROU-
Aright I'm serious here!
WHAT'S THIS?
YOU RE WORRIED ABOUT ME? HM?
...

D-DOES IT HURT IF I TOUCH IT?
IT HURTS
EH?!
LOOK.
BUT IF IT'S JUST SOMETHING LIKE THIS THEN THERE'S NO REAL PROBLEM IN REGENER ATING IT
THIS WAS JUST A CORPSE IN THE FIRST PLACE SO IT CAN'T HANDLE VERY MUCH
I SLEPT FOR THREE DAYS?
YOU'RE HUNGRY RIGHT?
I'VE TAKEN ABOUT THREE DAYS' WORTH OF ENERGY FROM YOU
W-
WHY YOU...!
STUPID I WAS KIDDING
WORRY ABOUT YOUR-SELF

HEY THERE!
YOU'RE UP, SHINOBU!
SHUNKE!?
I'VE MADE BREAK-FAST!
CAN'T LET SOMEONE WHO JUST GREW A HAND BACK TO LIVE ON ONLY WATER!
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, I'M GLAD I'M IN A FEMALE BODY
Pump-er-ker! Squish-er-ker!
SO? DID YOU FIND THE IMPORTANT THING
THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

I SHOULD'VE NARROWED THE POSITION DOWN BY NOW.
BUT IT'S LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING INTERFERING, MAKING MY SENSES ALL FUZZY...
NOPE
CAN NEITHER MAKE HEAD NOR TAIL OF IT AT ALL.
THE ONLY THING LEFT IS TO GO COMB THROUGH EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY
WELL, AT LEAST YOU KNOW IT'S NEARBY.
...
...
AS LONG AS THE SHRINE DOESN'T COL-LAPSE IT'S FINE EITHER WAY, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT REQUIRES PATIENCE
WELL I DON'T MIND
MUNCH MUNCH

A FATAL WOUND OR A GIANT SCAR FROM A PREVIOUS LIFE WILL TRANSFER OVER SINCE IT'S A "HOLY SCAR"
SOMEWHERE ON HIS BODY, THERE SHOULD BE A SCAR FROM WHERE I ATE HIM.
IT'S NOT THAT THERE AREN'T OTHER CLUES
THE MARK WILL BE PROMINENT, LIKE FATE HAD MARKED HIM
LIKE A SCAR
SO NOW YOU JUST HAVE FIND THE GUY WITH THE SCAR?
IT SHOULD PROBABLY APPEAR AS A TATTOO OR SOME-THING.
WHAT'S LEFT TO TALK ABOUT THEN?


I ALSO HAVE A SCAR FROM A GANGSTER SWORD ON MY TORSO
I ALSO HAVE SCARS LEFT FROM A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.
HA HA I'M ALL CUT UP MYSELF!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
Grampas, who the hell are you?!
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO HURRY UP AND LOOK FOR GUYS WITH SCARS

EVEN SO WE CAN'T JUST GO UP TO PEOPLE AND SAY, "PLEASE SHOW ME YOUR SCARS!"
HE COULD BE OLD OR A KID EVEN
INSTEAD, WE SHOULD... HM...

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D FIND HIM THEN.
Or maybe as a bug?
BUT WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THAT PERSON WASN'T REBORN AS A HUMAN BUT AS A CAT OR DOG?

ARE YOU STUPID?
ONLY HUMANS CAN BE REBORN AS HUMANS
I'm an exception
Don't call me that!

TOKAGE
WHAT
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
ABOUT WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT
THAT GOD YOU ATE
...
"Only humans can be reborn as humans"
Then...
...YOU WANT TO ASK ME ABOUT IT?
IT'S NOT REALLY A NICE STORY TO TALK ABOUT
DOESN'T MATTER
I STILL WANT TO HEAR IT
...the one you ate was...

..THAT I WAS HUMAN, TOO, RIGHT?
YOU'RE THINKING...
HA HA WELL THAT'S NORMAL
BUT SHE GAVE ME THE NAME, "TOKAGE."
I DIDN'T HAVE A NAME
I DON'T USUALLY TELL THIS TO HUMANS,
MY SOUL AND POWERS WERE SOME-HOW ALREADY LIKE THIS
IF YOU'RE ASKING ME ABOUT FALLING FROM THE RIGHTFUL WAY, THEN YEAH, I'D FALLEN A LONG TIME AGO

I'M SORRY I GOT YOU INVOLVED IN THIS BLOOD-SHED.
EVEN SO...
NO MATTER WHAT I LOOK LIKE OR HOW MANY TIMES I DIE,
I WILL SEARCH FOR HIM.
I DIDN'T TOUCH-STONE OR WHATEVER.
ANYWAY, WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW IS GO TO SCHOOL.
WHA–

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE SUCH A BODY, IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN RESET THINGS AS MANY TIMES AS I WANT
I'M ONLY REPEATING THE SAME MISTAKES OVER AND OVER AGAIN TO REGAIN SOMETHING AGAIN
THIS ISN'T PERSUASIVE AT ALL, COMING FROM ME.
BUT YOU NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO REDO THINGS.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT NOW!
NOW'S THE ONLY TIME YOU CAN, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY. .
..THE ONLY THING TO DO IS TO END IT HERE

MIYA!
MIYA-MOTO!
MORNING!
IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO ACTUALLY COME OUT.
THE COLD'S ALL BETTER NOW?
COLD..?
OH, YEAH IT IS
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
DID YOU HEAR? WHILE YOU WERE GONE
A STUDENT TRANSFERRED IN
TRANSFER STUDENT?
THESE THINGS DON'T HAPPEN VERY OFTEN. TRANSFERS USUALLY GO TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE WHEN AN ALL BOYS SCHOOL IS BORING
TO YOUR SEATS!
HOMEROOM'S STARTING!

NOT LIKE I CARE...
THAT'S THE TRANSFER?

I THOUGHT
TOKAGE HATED HIM

I DON'T GET WHAT "SEARCHING HIM OUT TO END EVERYTHING" MEANS.
BUT ALL THIS TALK OF EATING AND KILLING
...AND DYING
SCRETCH
"I want to live..."
"...to die"
IF IT WASN'T HATE, THEN
THE TOKAGE
ISN'T SOMETHING TO SAY WITH SUCH AN EXPRESSION

YOU WERE OUT THE WHOLE TIME
I TRANS-FERRED IN THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY. I'M MITSUO KASHIMA.
NO GOOD I'M GETTING CONFUSED
I want to go home already.
IS YOUR COLD ALL BETTER?
!
ARE YOU REALLY SMART?
THAT'S WHAT I HEAR FROM EVERYONE
NOT REALLY
YOU'RE THE SMART ONE IF YOU MANAGED TO TRANS-FER INTO HERE
KASHIMA.

MITSUO'S FINE
WHAT IS IT?
ON YOUR NECK.
OH, THIS?
IT'S A BIRTHMARK.
NOT AN INJURY OR ANYTHING
OH SORRY
NO IT'S FINE I DON'T MIND
MORE IMPORTANTLY ABOUT THIS SCHOOL
MIYAMOTO ARE YOU IN ANY CLUBS?
MAYBE BECAUSE THIS SCHOOL FOCUSES ON PREPARING STUDENTS FOR UNIVERSITY? THE SPORTS TEAMS DON'T REALLY DO ANYTHING
NO WAY
"The mark will be prominent."
"like fate had marked him."

THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM IS STRONG
CREAK
BUT HOW IS IT HERE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL?
I'M THINKING TOO MUCH
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D BE THIS CLOSE IN THE FIRST PLACE
CLATTER
SORRY
I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO SO I'LL BE LEAVING EARLY
OH? THAT'S A SHAME...
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT CLUBS YOU CAN ASK OTHERS
HEY.
CLATTER
THIS MAY BE A WEIRD QUESTION
...BUT, MIYAMOTO
YOU HAVE A REALLY STRONG SPIRITUAL SENSE RIGHT?
I JUST KNOW THESE THINGS
!!

A LOT OF DOCUMENTS CAME IN FOR YOU
THANK YOU. CAN YOU BRING IT HERE?
RUSTLE
THESE ARE SOME QUITE OLD PAPERS.
CHIEF SAKAKI.
ONCE WE KNOW HIS GOAL
WE CAN AIM FOR A SWIFT RESOLUTION
OH, KURI-YAMA! ME, TOO!
KURI-YAMA!! TEA!!
YES,
IT WON'T JUST END LIKE THIS
IS IT ABOUT THE TOKAGE?

AS LONG AS HE, THE CAUSE OF THE DISTORTION, IS GONE, THERE'S NO PROBLEM FOR US.
IF HE WANTS TO DIE, THEN WE'LL LET HIM DIE
TWINKLE
THAT WAS MERELY A BLUNDER
ARE YOU FINE WITH THIS EVEN THOUGH YOU SEEMED TO LIKE HIS FEMALE FORM?
YOU AREN'T HOLDING BACK, NOW THAT YOU KNOW HIS TRUE FORM IS MALE
(FU FU FU)
I WOULD LIKE THE CHIEF TO CHANGE HER MIND BEFORE SHE GETS INTO DISCIPLINARY TROUBLES/
Wow.
People like her really exist
WHETHER I FIND HIS WEAKNESSES OR HE DISAPPEARS AS LONG AS I CAN MAKE HIM LISTEN TO ME.
HE'LL BECOME MY SLAVE/
HE IS ONLY BORROWING HER BODY.

CRINKLE
HIS
GOAL
HM?
WHAT'S THIS?

I'LL BE GONE FOR A WHILE.
WHERE WILL YOU BE GOING?
TO OKAYAMA.
OKAYAMA!?
shk
THIS IS...
YOSHIOKA!!
COPY THIS AND PUT IT WITH THE REST OF MY NOTES.
(CLATTER)
YES, MA'AM!
KURI-YAMA!!
HAVE A SAFE TRIP!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE DRIVING.
EH?
EH?!
CLINK

CHAPTER ELEVEN

According to ancient records, there's a village high in the mountains.
The villagers had a ritual of offering a sacrifice to their god when they prayed for rain.
I HAVEN'T SLEPT SINCE LAST NIGHT
DREARY
UM...
DIRECTOR ...
The sacrifice offered to the Mountain God was the girl he possessed and turned into a god.
Let's just take the Shinkansen
DRIVING LIKE THIS IS UNSA—
BE QUIET
NO, THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT...
IF YOU GET SLEEPY LET ME KNOW.
I'LL HELP YOU STAY ALERT.
cuddle
And eight hundred years ago,
a human stole the offering and flooded the village

KAZURA! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
JUST OUT FOR A BIT
DON'T GO TO THE INNER CAVERNS
GRAND-FATHER!
FORGET ABOUT THAT THING ALREADY
THOSE WHO CANNOT LIVE WITHIN THE VILLAGE ARE BETTER OFF DEAD
WHAT? NO, BUT...

TWITCH
ARE YOU HERE?
TOKAGE!
IT'S ME!
HARDLY ANYTHING CAN BE HARVESTED FROM THE FIELDS ANYMORE
ON MY WAY UP I SAW A DRY BROOK... IT MUST BE A REALLY SEVERE DROUGHT FOR IT TO GET THIS BAD
TWITCH
OH!
YOU'RE HURT AGAIN!
SLAP
WHAT HAPPENED?
DID SOMEONE DO THIS TO YOU?

PULL
PULL
PULL
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT.
SHOW ME!
WHAT IS IT NOW?
In the dim inner caverns separated from human society...
...there was someone born with green scale-like skin.
He couldn't live in the village because of it.
I'LL BRING SOME MEDICINE NEXT TIME.
YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS FOR TODAY.
I ONLY HAVE BOILED TARO STEMS TODAY, BUT PLEASE EAT THEM.
Hence he was called Tokage (lizard).

Kazura said, "a Tokage's tail is green and very pretty."
SO WRONG THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE CHASED FROM THE VILLAGE EVEN THOUGH WE WERE BORN TOGETHER AS TWINS
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS...
I'M YOUR OLDER SISTER.
chomp
Say "ah."
DON'T WORRY ABOUT GRAND-FATHER
EVERYONE S JUST TESTY BECAUSE THERE S NO FOOD
ONCE THE FAMINE IS OVER I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ALLOWED TO LIVE WITH US AGAIN
Kind Kazura...

IT'S NOW BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE IT'S RAINED
AT THIS RATE, EVERYONE WILL DIE OF STARVATION
NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, WE CAN ONLY RELY ON THE MOUNTAIN GOD!
OFFER THE PRIESTESS
AND PERFORM THE POSSESSION RITUAL!

KAZURA.
IT'S KAZURA AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAINS.
SHE'S ALONE
BOTH HER PARENTS HAVE ALREADY DIED
KAZURA.
IT'S FOR THE VILLAGE
KAZURA!
CRUNCH
YOU'RE THE PRIESTESS.
PLEASE, KAZURA
YOU WILL CALL DOWN THE GOD

TOKAGE
LET'S GO OUTSIDE TODAY
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HERBS YOU CAN EAT
YOU EXTRACT THE LIQUID FROM THIS...
AND YOU CAN EAT THIS IF YOU WASH IT WITH WATER.
THE FRUIT IS BITTER, BUT IF YOU DRY THE ROOTS...
THIS LOOKS SIMILAR. BUT DON'T EAT IT. IT'S POISONOUS

EVEN WHEN I'M NOT HERE,
YOU HAVE TO EAT PROPERLY.
KAZURA.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY

KAZURA...
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
The Mountain God descends into the priestess,
and she becomes something inhuman.
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
It was a forbidden covert festival.
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

WHOOMPH
ROOOOAR
WHOOOOSH
The priestess who calls on the Mountain God becomes a god herself.
With a god's powers in hand, she is sacrificed to the same god.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

(THUD)
UHH... UGH...
DID THE GOD DESCEND INTO HER?
BUT THE PRIESTESS'S BODY WON'T HOLD LIKE THIS.
WE'LL HAVE HER REST BEFORE TAKING HER TO THE MOUNTAIN GOD.
(SNEAK)
I WONDER WHY?
TOKAGE
IT'S LIKE MY BODY ISN'T MY OWN...

TOKAGE?
SNEAK
RIGHT NOW, I CAN STILL...
TOKAGE?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
WHY?
DID I TELL YOU TOO MUCH AT ONCE?
THIS...
THIS PLANT!
YOU ATE IT?!

THERE SHE IS!
KAZURA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
Pant
Pant
WHAT DO I DO?
THIS IS MY FAULT!!
KAZURA! THE PRIESTESS CAN'T RUN OFF!
STOP!!
《GRAB》
STUPID BRAT GET AWAY FROM KAZURA!
YOU'RE STILL HANGING AROUND HERE?!
?!
WHAT...
WHAT DID YOU DO TO GRANDFATHER?!
I KNEW YOU WERE PLANNING TO ESCAPE
LOOKS LIKE THE OLD MAN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH
HIS GRANDDAUGHTER REALLY IS CUTE

KAZURA
HURRY AND RETURN
CONTINUE ON WITH THE RITUAL!
KAZURA
DON'T CRY
DASH
KAZURA!!
KAZURA! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HURRY AND GO-
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

THEY SAY THAT THE FLESH OF THE PRIESTESS WHEN POSSESSED BY THE MOUNTAIN GOD HAS SPECIAL POWERS.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I WANT TO SAVE
TOKAGE
HANG IN THERE
PANT
PANT
WHO CARES ABOUT THE VILLAGE ...MORE!
KAZURA
LISTEN TO ME TOKAGE
THIS IS MY LAST WISH.
YOU WILL SURVIVE
OK?
EAT IT ALL UP
DON'T BE SCARED

TOKAGE...
DON'T...
GIVE ME AWAY TO ANYONE...
(SLASH)
SISTER...
FIND HER!
KAZURA!
IS SHE THERE?
KAZURA!

This body...
(DRIBBLE DRIBBLE)
GET OVER HERE! NOW!
FORGET ABOUT HIM!
KAZURA...
KAZURA!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
KAZURA IS DEAD.

THE MOUN-TAINS!
(KYAA)
IT'S A CURSE!
THE WRATH OF THE MOUN-TAIN GOD!
(RUMBLE)
THAT'S WHY I SAID THAT WE GIVE HIM THE PRIESTESS QUICKLY...
YOU BASTARDS
KILLED HER
KAZURA?
YOU'RE ...
(HORROR)
IT'S CRUM-BLING!
RUN!!
EVERYONE! GET BACK TO THE VILLAGE!
(SP ASH)
(RUMBLE)

The village was flooded by a muddy stream overnight.
Everything was consumed.
Only one thing remained...

(RUMBLE)
YOU ATE HER..
... HUMAN.

AH...
WAHHHH!
AHH!
AH!
"You shall never be allowed to rest."
KILL ME.
BE CURSED
HUMAN.
YOU DARED TO LAY A HAND ON MY OFFERING.
RUMBLES
WANDER THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY!

I was the only one left
My curse was to be the only one left.
throb
AH!
Everyone i... died

Is this the curse?
OW
IT HURTS
Kazura
"Tokage"
IT HURTS
KAZURA!
"Live!"

The lizard tattoo and the undying soul.
Only your curse lives on now.
Kazura.
THE IMMORTAL TOKAGE SURVIVED BY TRANSFERRING TO THE DEAD PRIESTESS'S BODY.

THE HUMAN WHO ATE THE GOD'S OFFERING WAS CURSED WITH IMMORTALITY.
SO DEVOURING THE PRIESTESS INTO WHICH THE GOD HAD DESCENDED ESSENTIALLY KILLED THE GOD.
THEN THE SOUL THAT LIVES ON ONLY BY MOVING FROM BODY TO BODY...
IS THE TOKAGE?
THE PERSON WHO SHOULD HAVE DIED SURVIVED BY EATING THE PRIESTESS'S FLESH. WHILE THE PRIESTESS, WHO WAS TO BE AN OFFERING, DIED...
SO IT'S THE PRIESTESS'S FLESH THAT HAS THE POWER OF IMMORTALITY!

THIS WAS THE FIRST DEVIATION
THE CURSE WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS THINGS AREN'T SET RIGHT
It's not like this is Atlantis
BUT THAT VILLAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN DESTROYED
AND THOSE DOCUMENTS ARE ONLY NOTES TAKEN FROM ORAL TRADITION.
IN THIS REGION THERE ARE MANY UNUSUAL CUSTOMS IN THESE INDIGENOUS VILLAGES
THESE ORAL TRADITIONS ARE ACTUALLY THE BEST CLUES
TOKAGE IS SEARCHING FOR THE CAUSE OF THE DEVIATION
IN OTHER WORDS THE PRIESTESS'

I'M SORRY ANYONE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF I SUDDENLY SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THE ABILITY TO SENSE SPIRITS?
I DON'T
BECAUSE I CAN TELL
MAYBE YOU FEEL AWKWARD BEING WITH ME?
BECAUSE I CAN SENSE SPIRITS
OR SOMETHING
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
THANKS
THAT'S NOT
NO!
there couldn't be normal!

THAT'S WHY YOU CAN SEE WEIRD SHADOWS.
YOU LIVE AT A SHRINE, RIGHT? MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT?
CLATTER
HAS ANYTHING STRANGE HAPPENED RECENTLY?
FOR EXAMPLE...
HAS SOMEONE SETTLED IN WITH YOU?

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CHAPTER TWELVE

JUST A HUNCH.
I'M THE KIND OF PERSON WHO KNOWS THESE THINGS
SETTLED IN...?
WHY DO YOU-
WHOEVER HE IS, I DON'T KNOW WHY HE'S AT YOUR HOUSE.
BUT IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH HIM.

SORRY, BUT I'M BUSY
YOU CAN ASK OTHERS ABOUT CLUBS.
THE BUILDING NEXT TO THE GYMNASIUM IS WHERE ALL THE CLUBROOMS ARE.
CLICK
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
IF YOU DO NOTHING GOOD WILL-
CLATTER

WHAT THE HELL WAS WITH THAT GUY? SUDDENLY ACTING LIKE HE'S KNOWN ME FOR YEARS ?
HE SEEMED LIKE HE KNEW WHO TOKAGE WAS BUT..
WHAT IF THAT WAS THE GUY TOKAGE IS LOOKING FOR?
HM...?

THAT'S RIGHT
IF THAT WERE TRUE...
"It's a birthmark."
EVERY-THING
AB-NORMAL WILL...
...THEN THIS WILL ALL END
"Shinobu."

SHOCK
WHY ARE YOU...
HEY! MY HOUSE JUST HAPPENS TO BE THIS WAY, TOO
LET'S HEAD HOME TOGETHER
Ah!
I CAN'T BE SURE THAT HE'S NOT JUST ANOTHER GUY GOING AFTER TOKAGE.
ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY BAD INTENTIONS...

AND HE'S NOT AFTER TOKAGE BUT ME?!
ISN'T THIS KIND OF STALKERISH?
SO PRIESTS NOWADAYS DO ACU-PUNCTURE TOO?
IT'S SORT OF A SIDE JOB. I HAVE TO AT LEAST KNOW HOW TO DO THIS MUCH

Twang
HOW IS IT?
HM...
DOES THIS REALLY WORK ...?
I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS TO ASK THAT
Huh?
IF IT WERE BACK PAIN, THEN YEAH, MAYBE
RIP
BUT I'VE NEVER TREATED A REGENERATED ARM BEFORE
WELL, AT THE VERY LEAST, IT MIGHT DRIVE THE PAIN AWAY
POKE
IT'S 'CAUSE THIS ISN'T A NORMAL PERSON'S BODY
RATHER IT'S A CORPSE
It might have a placebo effect

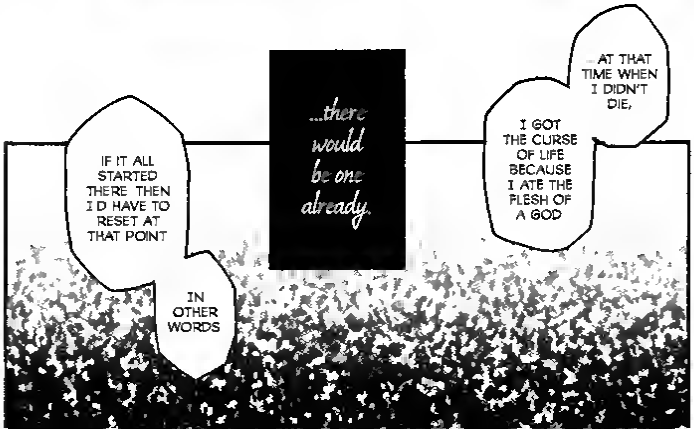
I FEEL GREAT.
SCARILY SO.
USUALLY REGENERATING AN ARM AND HAVING IT BACK TO NORMAL USUALLY TAKES A MONTH.
BUT IT'S ALREADY LIKE THIS.
CHECK
CHECK
HEY!
DON'T MOVE THAT!
The needles are still stuck in you!
PART OF IT IS THANKS TO THE BARRIER THAT GRAMPS SET UP TO CALM THE SPIRITUAL LEY LINES
BUT THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE
SO, IN OTHER WORDS,
YOU'RE REALLY COMPATIBLE WITH THAT BODY!

Or his power?
Could it be that his strong feelings are making this body move?
WELL, THAT MIGHT BE PART OF IT
PLUS THE FACT THAT SHINOBU'S POWER IS PRETTY STRONG
"That's Yuka's body!"
"Don't touch her!"
"Sister..."
Kazura, the life you saved me is still here...
You're the only one not...
HEY.

ARE YOU PLANNING ON STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE?
YOU
HA HA,
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I WAS PLANNING ON SETTLING IN FOR A LITTLE BIT YEAH
I said so already =
NOT THAT
rustle
DON'T GET ATTACHED EVEN IF YOU ARE A PRIEST
I'M NOT YOUR NOR ANY HUMAN'S ALLY
DID YOU FORGET?

And up!
DO YOU KNOW A WAY TO BREAK THE CURSE?
If there were any way to break the curse...
WHAT'RE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH HIM?
AFTER YOU FIND THE GUY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

BEFORE
SOMEWHAT...?
WELL, SOMEWHAT


...there would be one already.
IF IT ALL STARTED THERE THEN I'D HAVE TO RESET AT THAT POINT
IN OTHER WORDS
I GOT THE CURSE OF LIFE BECAUSE I ATE THE FLESH OF A GOD
...AT THAT TIME WHEN I DIDN'T DIE,

I JUST HAVE TO
BE KILLED BY HIM
WELL, IT'S SIMPLE
IT JUST MEANS YOU NEED TO FIX IT SO THAT SOMEONE WHO SHOULD'VE DIED DOES
BE KILLED ?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

NO ONE ELSE CAN KILL ME. BUT HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO.
THEN AGAIN I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY TESTED THIS THEORY
I'LL JUST BE RETURNING WHAT I STOLE...
BUT THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANOTHER BIG RUCKUS HERE AGAIN SO DON'T WORRY.
Sister.
EVEN IF I WERE FINE WITH IT SHINOBU WOULDN'T BE...
AND BESIDES THE SIN OF KILLING SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY DEAD
SHINOBU...
HE'S GOING TO LOSE...
HIS PRECIOUS SISTER TWICE NOW...
OF COURSE NOT!

DON'T TELL SHINOBU
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
DOES HE REALLY PLAN ON FOLLOWING ME ALL THE WAY BACK HOME?!
RRR.R.
SIGH

HUH?
SOMEONE WEIRD IS FOLLOWING YOU?
whisper
whisper
ACTU-ALLY
HELLO?
OH SHINOBU!
SHUNKE?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GRAMPS, HE'S NOT HERE RIGHT NOW

HIDE TOKAGE?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

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CHAPTER THIRTEEN

is just fine with it.

THERE ARE NO GIRLS AROUND HERE
ONLY GRANDFATHER SHUNKEI AND I ARE HERE
IS HE YOUR OLDER BROTHER?
SOMEONE FROM THE SHRINE?
HE'S A PRIEST
HUH? WHAT ABOUT THE GIRLS?
HM.
I FEEL LIKE THERE'S A GIRL LIVING HERE THOUGH
YOU'RE IMAGINING IT
STOP MAKING WEIRD FALSE ACCUSATIONS
Whoa, there's so much room in here!
BUT IS HE AFTER THE TOKAGE?
HE SAID HE HAD A STRONG SPIRITUAL SENSE AND WHATNOT
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

(CLATTER)
OW!
HE DID SAY TO HIDE...
BUT WHY ALL THE WAY IN HERE?!
CRAMPED...
Storage room.
RUSTLE
...?
WHOA, WHAT AN EXPRESSIONLESS PRIMARY SCHOOL KID!
A PHOTO ALBUM?
WHAT'S THIS?

HUH?
Shinobu's first kiss to the ocean with Ryoji ♥

THERE ARE NO PICTURES FROM WHEN HE WAS A KID.

(FWUMP)

NOT LIKE IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME THOUGH

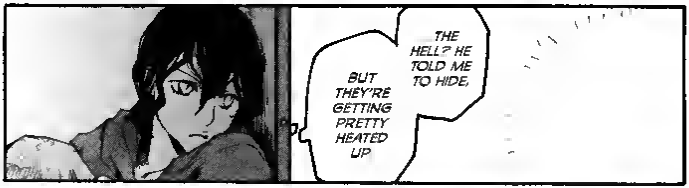
"The child's parents are divorced and currently overseas..."
IS THIS THE FAMILY PROBLEM GRAMPS WAS TALKING ABOUT?
HE HAS A LOT GOING ON WITH HIM, TOO...

THE AIR IS BEAUTIFUL HERE
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE IT'S A SHRINE?
MAKES IT FEEL SPECIAL HERE
NO THE SHRINE AND HOME ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS
WHEN THEY SAID "THE SHRINE" I THOUGHT THEY MEANT YOU LIVED IN THE SHRINE
THAT'S JUST WHAT A SHRINE IS
SHH!
SWOOSH
WHOA!
{FULL}

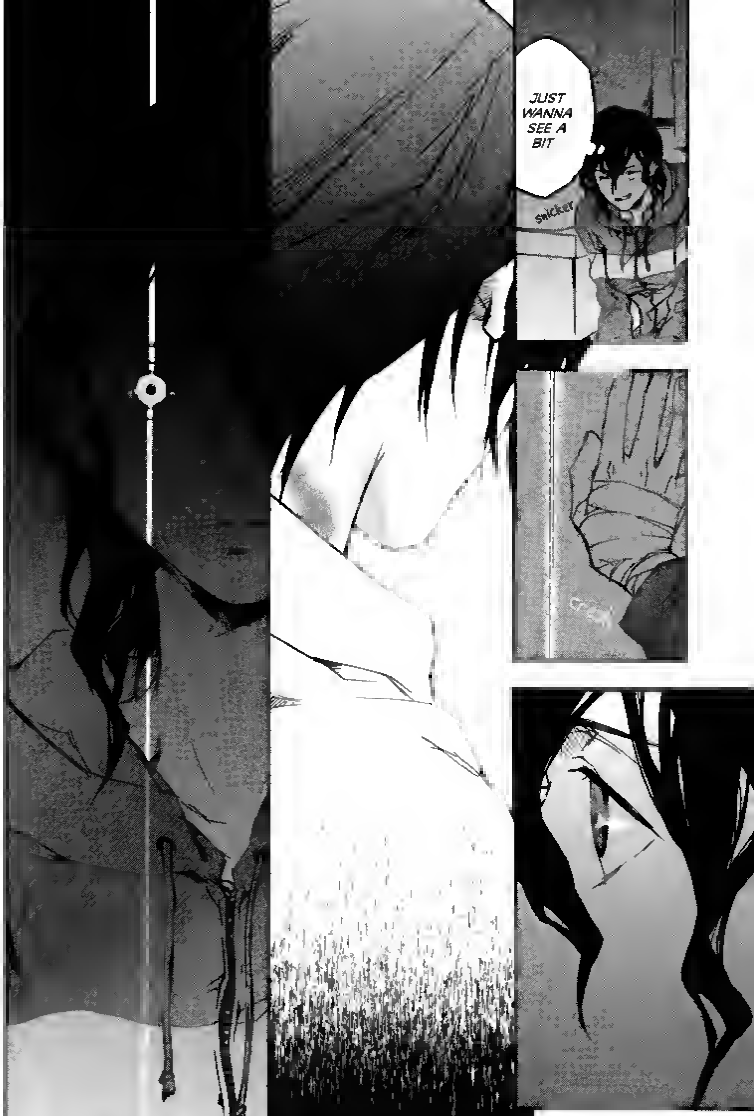
HA
HA
AH, WELL, SHINOBU'S...
WHY THE HELL AM I HIDING?
I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING WEIRD!
RECENTLY, EVERYONE WHO HAS COME FROM THE OUTSIDE HAS BEEN AIMING FOR YOU...
...SO SHINOBU'S GROWN SENSITIVE, TOO.
(CLATTER)
It's crowded in here.
IS HIS FRIEND HERE?
SEEMS LIKE IT.
SO HE HAS FRIENDS.
OH, REALLY.
SO HE'S WORRIED 'BOUT ME.

WHERE'S YOUR GRANDFATHER?
WORKING?
OH... YEAH, MAYBE HE IS.
HM.
YOU'RE REALLY PROTECTED HERE
WHAT ARE YOU-
IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, IT'S OK
AH, LOOKS LIKE MY GUESS WAS OFF THE MARK
ALTHOUGH, MY "WOMAN" SENSOR IS STILL GOING OFF
WHAT THE HELL?!
Stop making me worry!
ANNOYED

REALLY THANK GOD THIS IS A SHRINE!
EVEN IF STRANGE THINGS ARE HAPPENING, IT'S BEST YOU DON'T GET INVOLVED
BUT BE CAREFUL!
YOU SEEM TO BE THE TYPE TO GET DRAGGED INTO THINGS...


THE HELL? HE TOLD ME TO HIDE.
BUT THEY'RE GETTING PRETTY HEATED UP

SHRINES ARE REALLY INTEREST-ING
I WONDER IF IT'S ALL RIGHT IF I COME OVER TO PLAY AGAIN?
THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO SEE HERE!
CATTER


JUST WANNA SEE A BIT
SNICKER

I-I WONDER IF GRANDPA IS BACK!
HUH?
DID YOU HEAR--
WHAT THE HELL IS TOKAGE DOING?!
AH!
HM.
(SLAM)

But I didn't feel anything!
Is that mark... Could it be?!
Why?

But that mark is definitely...!!
Kazuya!!

(BA-BUMP BA-BUMP BA-BUMP)
This life is Kazura's...
I should've recognized her the moment I met her...
...and yet...
...why didn't I realize it?!
THEN, I'LL SEE YOU AT SCHOOL
I didn't even feel that she came all the way here!!
THUMP

No, it might just be a coincidence.
There are countless people with the same type of bruise.
But it appeared so clearly...
(THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP)

HE SEEMED WEIRDLY KNOWLEDGE ABLE ABOUT MY HOUSE SO HE WAS SUSPICIOUS.
HE SEEMED LIKE HE KNEW ABOUT TOKAGE, TOO
PUSH
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
OH, I GET IT IT'S BAD FOR OTHERS IN YOUR GRADE TO FIND OUT YOU'RE LIVING WITH A BIG CHESTED BEAUTY!
AW HE WAS JUST AN ORDINARY KID! AND I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS UP WITH HIM!

IF YOU'RE FINE DOESN'T THAT MEAN THERE'S NO PROBLEM?
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT IT LIKE BEFORE RIGHT?
AH, IT FEELS GOOD KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE A PROPER FRIEND NOW!
twitch
THAT'S
I DON'T BUT
WHAT'S WITH TOKAGE?
HE'S NOT REALLY A FRIEND! HE FORCED HIMSELF-
WELL, HE'S A FRIEND STARTING NOW!
TOKAGE!
I TOLD HER TO HIDE...!
OH

AH!
(CLATTER)
TOKAGE!
SHINOBU,
WHO IS HE?
WHO? SOMEONE FROM SCHOO-
HUH?
WHAT IS HE?!

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

JUST WHO...
WAS THAT GUY JUST NOW?!
WHO...? SOMEONE FROM CLASS.
HE TRANS-FERRED OVER A WEEK AGO...
HE SAID HE WANTED TO SEE THE SHRINE OR SOMETHING AND FOLLOWED ALONG...
Why didn't I sense anything?
!!
TOKAGE!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
(WHOOSH)

I thought I'd definitely know if I just met her...
GOING TO CHECK
EH?
CHECK? WHAT DO YOU–
THAT MARK...
WAS SOME-THING I MADE.
...would be calling mine Kazura.
...Since your life
YOU MEAN...
THE PERSON YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IS...
I DON'T KNOW
I DON'T KNOW AT ALL. WHICH IS WHY I'M GONNA GO CHECK

W-WAIT!
WHERE DOES HE LIVE?
IT COULD BE A TRAP LIKE BEFORE!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT ...?
I DIDN'T FEEL HIS AURA! NOTHING!
LET GO!
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF!
THAT A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS WILL GATHER AROUND AN IMMORTAL BODY!!
BESIDES WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID YOU'LL GO CHECK?!
THAT MARK MIGHT BE A COINCIDE-
SHUT UP!!

JUST SHUT UP ALREADY!!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
JUST HOW MANY YEARS DO YOU THINK I'VE LOOKED FOR HER?!
JUST HOW LONG...
GRIP
HAVE I HAD THIS LIFE...

THIS...
(SQUELCH SQUELCH)
"TOKAGE!"
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STOP THAT!
YOU'RE BLEEDI-
(SLAM)
(SHOVE)
!!

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
WHAT A RUCKUS JUST WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH! OLD MAN!?

(SHATTER)
(CRACK CRACK)
(CRACKLE)
WHOA!
(CRASH)
CAREFUL!
pant
pant
YOUR POWERS ARE GOING OUT OF CONTROL
REST FOR A WHILE
(THUD)
GRAMPS
OLD MAN!!
(WHOOSH)

IF HE'S A FRIEND FROM SHINOBU'S SCHOOL, YOU CAN MEET HIM AT ANY TIME.
DON'T BE SO HASTY.

UGH...
SHUNKE!
AH, YES.
DRAG

DRAG
GRAMPS
WHY YOU...

LET GO...
DON'T GET IN MY WAY...

OH!
CAREFUL, DON'T CUT YOUR HANDS!
CLATTER
CLATTER
THERE'S GLASS ON THE FLOOR
GRANDPA YOU CAN'T ENTER YET
《CLATTER》
《CLINK》

IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S MADE QUITE A MESS.
DESTROYING OTHERS' HOUSES AND BREAKING THEIR DISHES LIKE THAT!
JUST WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON?!
SERIOUSLY!!

HAA, HAA...
HM?
THEN GO DO IT SOME-WHERE ELSE!
《IRRITATED》
IN THE FIRST PLACE, IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO ON AND ON ABOUT DYING OR HOW YOU HATE TO CONTINUE LIVING,
CLATTER
《CLATTER CLATTER》
SHE'S SUCH A PAIN!

YOU SAID SOMETHING SIMILAR ONCE — LONG AGO
!
GRANDPA,
WHERE DO PEOPLE GO WHEN THEY DIE?
THE DECEASED TRAVEL TO SUKHAVATI
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THIS SHINOBU?
MM...
LIVING IS JUST...
...A PAIN.

O-
OH REALLY
YOU'VE FELT IT TO BE TROUBLESOME AFTER TEN YEARS.
BUT IT HAS CONTINUED LIVING FOR EIGHT HUNDRED.
TRUE IT IS A TROUBLE SOME THING
WHETHER IT S LIVING OR ANY- THING ELSE FOR THAT MATTER.

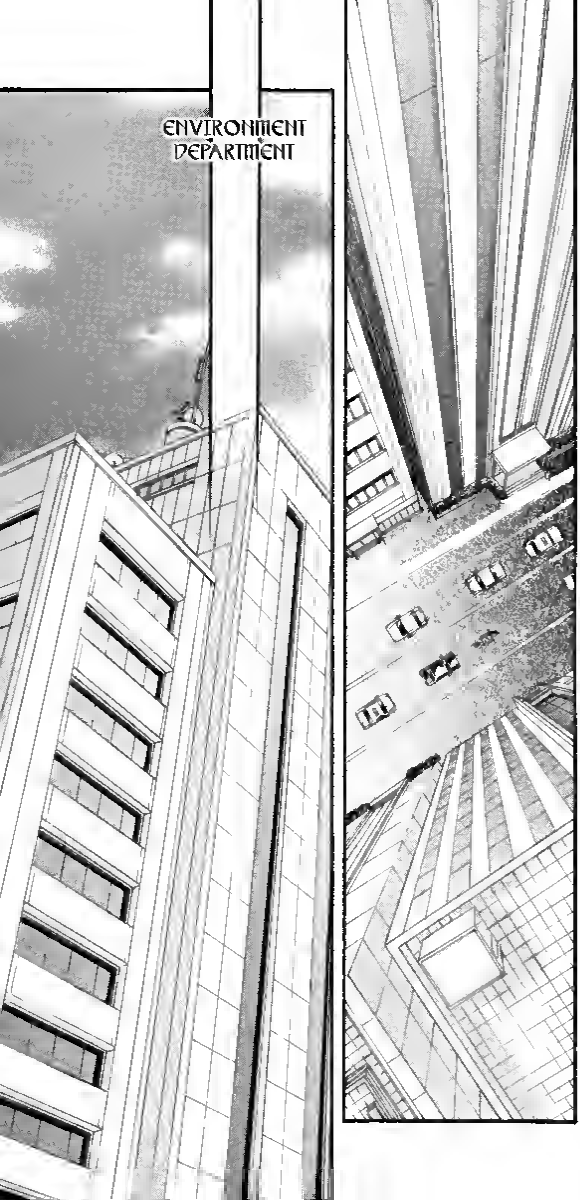
THERE ARE PERIODS OF TIME THAT DRAG OUT.
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT HAS SEEN OR DONE.
IT WILL NOT TELL ME.
THAT DOESN'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME THOUGH
WELL, YOU ARE RIGHT
CLATTER
OW OW
HAS IT CALMED DOWN?
SIGH
LOOKS LIKE SHE FINALLY WENT TO SLEEP.

I REALIZED JUST NOW...
IT'S JUST...
NO
HM?
SHE DID MAKE SUCH A RUCKUS AFTER ALL.
SHE PROBABLY GOT TIRED FROM CRYING

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A CORPSE
AND CRIES...
THAT SHE BLEEDS...

I can't believe she's lived for eight hundred years.
She's just like a baby.
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN THAT LONG...
SINCE YUKA DIED...
SHE MAKES SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR ME
{FWIP}
I wonder if one day, I'll forget things like that...
Sadness, happiness, everything
{RUSTLE}
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY TIME TO FEEL SAD

The Tokage can't do that?
"This has nothing to do with you."
WHY DID I..
STOP TOKAGE, I WONDER...?
WHY DID SHE LIE AND SAY IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME?


ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT

(KNOCK)
CHIEF!!
THE MEETING HAS STARTED ALREADY!
(KNOCK KNOCK)
chek
CHIEF!
PLEASE COME OUT!
KNOCK
KNOCK
(CLICK CLICK)
EVER SINCE THAT BUSINESS TRIP LAST TIME SHE'S BEEN WEIRD.
LIKE SHE HAD SOMETHING ON HER MIND
OH? WHAT'S UP WITH MS. SAKAKI?
SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT DESTROYING THE TOKAGE OR SOMETHING.

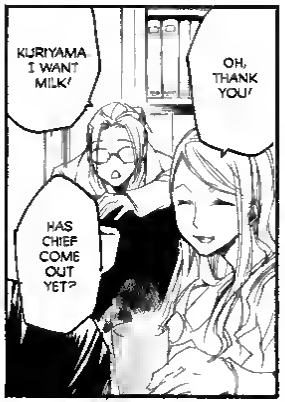
IF TOKAGE MANAGES TO, IN SOME FASHION OR FORM
UNDO ITS CURSE.
(RUSTLE, RUSTLE)
WILL THAT SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS FOR US?
STUPID
SO WE SHOULD JUST STAND BACK AND WATCH?
The Tokage's objective is probably
the restoration of souls

A soul existing where it shouldn't be...
...is like cramming something into an already saturated collection. Of course it would create a distortion in space
If that is causing the spiritual disturbance, then the moment of restoration will also have a great reaction, of course...
I thought it would be fine if we could just, remove that.
TAP
...BUT IT'S JUST LIKE HOW REMOVING A TUMOR REQUIRES MORE THAN THE AVERAGE SURGERY.
AT ANY RATE,
WE CAN'T JUST LET THINGS GO ON SMOKING LIKE THIS FOREVER.
"I want to live..."
"...and die."

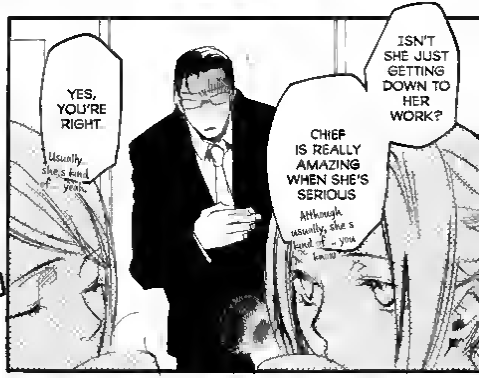
...SUCH A SIMPLE WISH
IT REALLY IS...
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT FOR YOU TO GRANT IT.

I POURED SOME TEA.

SHE HAS ALREADY CLOSED HERSELF IN THERE FOR FIVE HOURS
NO
SHE DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE MEETING IN THE END EITHER.
My stomach...
SIGH


KURIYAMA I WANT MILK!
OH, THANK YOU!
HAS CHIEF COME OUT YET?

(BRRRRING)
OH, PHONE
ビルルルル


YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
Usually she's kind of yeah.
ISN'T SHE JUST GETTING DOWN TO HER WORK?
CHIEF IS REALLY AMAZING WHEN SHE'S SERIOUS
Although usually she's kind of ... you know

HELLO,
THIS IS THE SUPER-NATURAL DISASTER COUNTER-MEA-
YES HUH? THAT S RIGHT.
YES THAT S UNDER OUR JURISDICTION BUT...
<BEEP>
I DON T THINK THERE S BEEN ANY SPECIAL MOVEMENT...
THE MAGNETIC FIELD DIDN T HAVE ANY ABNORMALITIES YESTER-
YES... YES, I'LL CHECK.
ODD, THAT SHOULDN'T BE...
<ERRRONG>
<ERRRING>
<ERRRRONG>
STRANGE, WE SHOULD BE KEEPING A SPECIAL EYE ON THAT
WHAT'S WRONG?
LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS ANOTHER SPIRITUAL DISTURBANCE AROUND WHERE TOKAGE WAS
IT WOULD BE FINE IF IT WERE JUST ONE PLACE, BUT...

(BEEE

THIS IS THE AREA WHERE TOKAGE IS HIDING ITSELF
(FLIP FLIP FLIP FLIP)
WHAT S WRONG?
LOOK HERE FOR A BIT
(CLICK CLICK)
(FLIPFLIP FLIP FLIP)
THE RE-SPONSES ARE WEAK, AND I THINK THEY RE ALL LOW-LEVEL SPIRITS
BUT AN ENORMOUS NUMBER IS GATHERING
BECAUSE OF THAT THIS DISTRICT S MAGNETIC FIELD HAS BECOME DEFORMED
IMPOS-SIBLE!
HAS THE TOKAGE MADE A MOVE?
NO THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM THE SHRINE

COULD IT BE THAT THEY WERE BROKEN?
WHEN WE WENT, SEVERAL TALISMANS SHOULD HAVE REMAINED STANDING
THE HEAD PRIEST AT THAT SHRINE HAS BARRIERS ERECTED AROUND IT
What is this?
Just what is going on?
SCREE
SCREE

TAP
DRIBBLE
DOSH
DOSH
DOSH
DOSH
DOSH
GRAB
WHAT A FOOL YOU ARE, TOKAGE.
TO LIVE UNDER PROTECTION.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
GO AHEAD, REMEMBER...
...JUST WHO YOU REALLY ARE

Kokage [2] Fin

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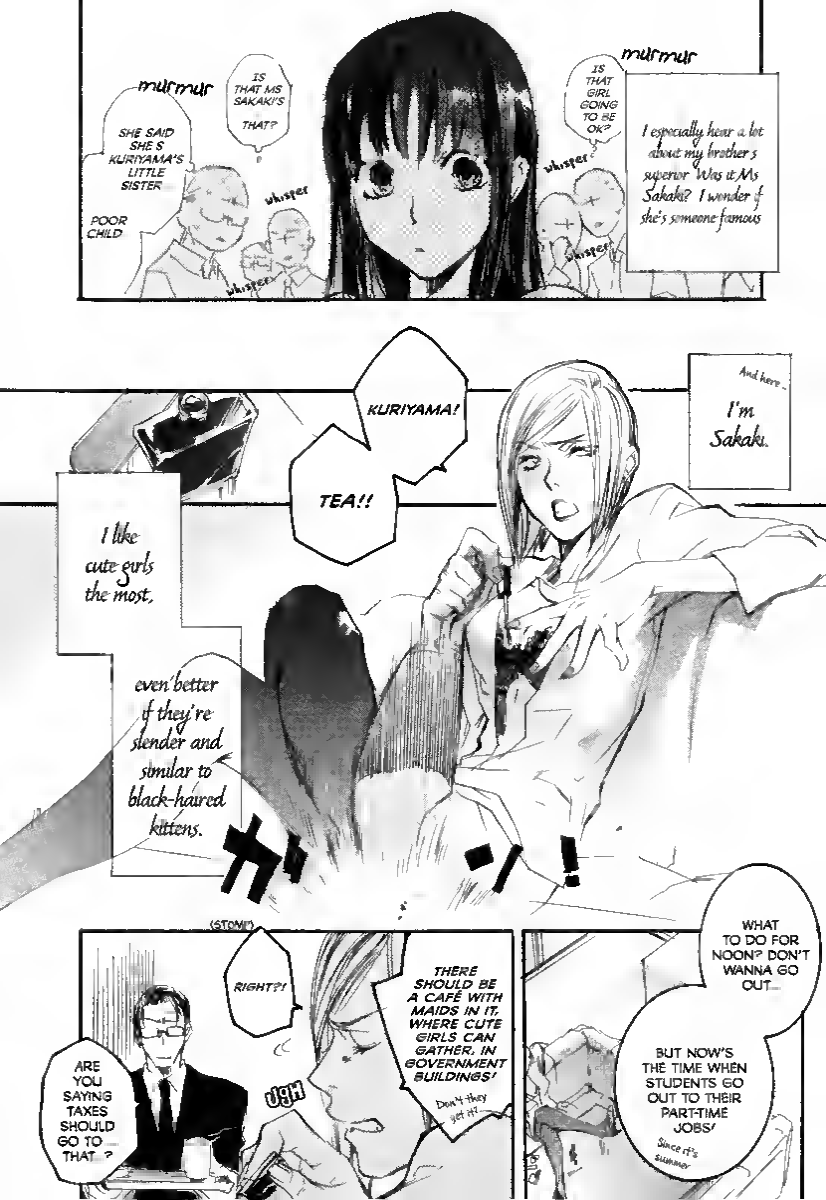
←This is a manga drawn for the Zero-Sum collection's Offspring, Ko-Zero-Sum.

Rough sketch of the cover.

Look under the cover sleeve, too!

BIG BRO, ON THE LAST DAY

Nice to meet you. I am Chiharu Kuriyama.
My brother forgot something, so I'm delivering it to him.
I'M GONNA GET LOST...
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME IN A GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING...
Our family takes care of a shrine every generation, so Big Bro went to work to prevent spirit-based natural disasters before they happened.
twitch
EXCUSE ME...
I'M LOOKING FOR THE SUPER NATURAL DISASTER COUNTER MEASURE DEPARTMENT
EH, SUPER NATURAL DISASTER?!
?
shuffle
W-WHATEVER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
shuffle
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!
but it seems to be a special job so he must be working really hard.
When I ask about Big Bro, everyone always answers so nicely.


murmur
SHE SAID SHE'S KURIYAMA'S LITTLE SISTER...
POOR CHILD
whisper
IS THAT MS SAKAKI'S THAT?
whisper
murmur
IS THAT GIRL GOING TO BE OK?
whisper
I especially hear a lot about my brother's superior. Was it Ms Sakaki? I wonder if she's someone famous
And here I'm Sakaki.
KURIYAMA!
TEA!!
I like cute girls the most,
even better if they're slender and similar to black-haired kittens.
(STOMP)
RIGHT?!
THERE SHOULD BE A CAFÉ WITH MAIDS IN IT, WHERE CUTE GIRLS CAN GATHER, IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS!
Don't they get it?
ARE YOU SAYING TAXES SHOULD GO TO... THAT...?
WHAT TO DO FOR NOON? DON'T WANNA GO OUT...
BUT NOW'S THE TIME WHEN STUDENTS GO OUT TO THEIR PART-TIME JOBS!
Since it's summer

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, KURIYAMA, YOU HAVE A LITTLE SISTER, DON'T YOU?
WA
NO!
HHH
NO WAY!
I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING YET
KNOCK
MR KURIYAMA, YOU SEEM TO HAVE A GUEST HERE
PEEK
BIG BRO!
YOU FORGOT SOMETHING AT HOME!
C-CHIHARU!!
UWA
HHH
WHY ARE YOU HERE..?!
If this got out
COME ON IT'S SUMMER VACATION!
Pinpoint
I'VE RECEIVED THE LUNCH AND FILES FROM YOU.
NOW, HURRY UP AND GO BACK!
PAT
IT'S DANGE-
KURIYAMA.

(DEPRESSED)
WHAT A CUTE LITTLE SISTER YOU HAVE
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE COMES TO DELIVER THINGS EVERY DAY.
YOU GO EAT THAT LUNCH OF YOURS.
C-CHIEF!
CHIHARU! QUICK! LEAVE!
UM...
I SHALL BE HAVING LUNCH WITH YOUR DEAR LITTLE SISTER
!!!
AHHHHHHH
CHIHARU!♥ CHIHARU!!♥
Fu fu, now, cute little kitten, what would you like to eat?
Eh? Um...
ah
HUH? WHAT ABOUT THE MAIN CHARACTERS?!
It's summer, so swimsuits.
Fin.

Yatsumemo.

I've kept you waiting. Here is volume 2. This is my first ever "volume 2," so I was trembling something fierce. Thanks to you all, including those who have read starting from volume 1 and those who just got volume 2 and went "???" or something!

I'm still not used to this monthly serialization business, so I'm trying really hard (in a chaotic manner) to get used to it. Any thoughts are welcome! With this, I hope to see you again in the next volume!

For some reason, Shunsuke is considered an "uke" (submissive partner in a relationship) among my friends.

THANKS & STAFFS.

Chuke Agata! Ta-sama!
Editor-in-Chief Sugino!

Matt Hatsuzawa 2007